

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On September 19, the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents voted unanimously to appoint Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, as the Regent's Liaison to the National Museum of African American History and Culture Council. Representative Becerra released the following statement:

"I'm honored to have been asked by my colleagues on the Smithsonian Institution Board of Regents to serve on the National Museum of African American History and Culture Council. I consider this one of the most rewarding assignments of my career. With the prospective opening of this national museum, the rich, vibrant and emotional story of America comes closer to life. I look forward to working ambitiously with my fellow Council members to make their dream a reality."□

The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) was established by an Act of Congress in 2003 and is scheduled for completion in 2015—a year that marks key moments in African American history such as the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil war, the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, and the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

As the 19th Smithsonian Institution museum, NMAAHC will be built adjacent to the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. During the pre-building phase, the museum is producing publications, hosting public programs, assembling collections and presenting exhibitions at the National Museum of American History and museums across the nation.